



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### 1960 HUNTING AND FISHING ECONOMIC SURVEY PLANNED

The second nationwide economic survey of hunting and fishing will be conducted in January, 1961, and cover activities during the year 1960, the Department of the Interior reported today. The first such survey was made for 1955.

The 1960 survey will be conducted by the Bureau of the Census under an agreement with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service. It will include all of the items upon which data were obtained in the 1955 project plus some additional information which is being delineated at the present time. The cost is estimated at \$150,000.

The coming survey, like the previous one, is being financed from Federal Aid funds for the restoration of game and fish in response to a resolution passed by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners during its annual meeting in September 1958. This association, composed of representatives of each State, not only urged that the 1960 survey be made with Federal Aid funds but urged also that the Department plan to make a similar survey every ten years from now on.

Federal Aid funds are derived from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and on sport fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies. These funds are distributed to the various States under a formula based upon law for use on a matching basis by the States in the restoration of fish and wildlife. Thus the cost of the survey is not charged to general taxes but to the special levy which sportsmen pay through the purchase of the specified sporting equipment.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain such information as the number of individuals who engaged in recreational hunting and fishing in the United States during the calendar year 1960, the number of days spent in these pursuits and the total expenditures which are attributable to their participation in hunting and fishing for recreation. Any changes since 1955 in the number of sportsmen, time involved, or in the amount of money spent will be noted.

Actually, the Bureau of the Census will begin its operations in December 1960 when a representative National sample of 17,000 households will be contacted to determine the presence of one or more household members 12 years old or more who hunted or fished in 1960.

The survey conducted early in 1956 showed that approximately 25 billion American anglers and hunters spent nearly \$3 billion in the pursuit of fish and game for recreation during 1955. This averages \$114 apiece. The 21 million anglers spent \$2 billion while 12 million hunters spent nearly \$1 billion. More than seven million individuals engaged in both hunting and fishing.

Copies of Circular 44, National Survey of Fishing and Hunting, 1955 are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The single copy price is 40 cents.

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